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Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • May 2016

Yeager Scholar Turnbull has successful year with WMUL

By GABI WARWICK

Yeager scholar, double major and, now, national award winner. Sophomore Rebecca Turnbull has had an exceptional year with the Marshall's student-run radio station, WMUL-FM.

This semester, Turnbull served as continuity director for the station, while also reporting for the news staff. Although this is only her second year as a reporter, her stories have been recognized by multiple national organizations.

Most recently, Turnbull won Outstanding Effort by an Individual Reporter, an award given by the Virginias Associated Press Contest (VAPB). This contest incorporates radio and television stations in both West Virginia and Virginia and is the only contest where students from WMUL-FM compete against professionals. Turnbull said winning this award seemed surreal.

"I remember just sitting there," Turnbull said, "And they called off the first name, and usually that's the person who receives a merit award, and I immediately felt nauseous because I was like, 'No way.' Then they called my name for the superior award and I got up and walked down the path between professionals who were all looking at me as if I was on their level. That really hammered the nail home for me."

In the National Broadcasting Society (NBS) awards competition in March, Turnbull brought home an award for her anchoring skills, and the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) recognized her earlier the same month for her story about knowing your rights when encountering law enforcement. She said her continued success keeps her inspired.

"It definitely gives you a different perspective of working at the station," Turnbull said. "It gives you more of a motivation to do better because it reinforces the fact that what you do matters, and that people can see it."



GABI WARWICK | HONORS ORACLE
Above, Turnbull holds her plaque for Outstanding Effort by an Individual Reporter. Turnbull said she loves chocolate ice cream and owes it all to her cats.

As part of her multi-award winning year, Turnbull has been able to travel with other students from WMUL-FM to the awards ceremonies to accept her trophies in person. She travelled to Burbank, California, for the NBS conven-

tion, and to Charlottesville, Virginia, for the VAPB competition late in April.

Turnbull said the trips have a special meaning for her.

"The best part of being on the awards trips was getting to get closer to the people of the station," Turnbull said. "Because so many seniors are leaving this year, people I've looked up to for the past two years. Going to the awards competitions gives us something to hold on to as they move on, like family."

WMUL-FM Faculty Manager Professor Charles Bailey has advised the station since 1985, and said Turnbull is different from students he has worked with before.

"We've had Yeager Scholars work here before," Bailey said. "This is the first Yeager that I am familiar with that has taken a leadership role, so I am really intrigued to see what she can do from a leadership point, because that's what Yeagers are supposed to do: be leaders as students."

WMUL-FM Executive Director Adam Rogers has worked with Turnbull both years she has been a member of the staff, including serving as news director for her this semester. He said Turnbull's reporting instincts are impressive.

"She has done an exceptional job of figuring out what are the important angles for a story," Rogers said, "because not every event is flashy and is interesting. She's done a really great job of putting an interesting spin and telling a story in an interesting way to keep people interested."

Turnbull will serve as news director for WMUL-FM in the fall semester.

Phi Kappa Phi inducts new members



AMANDA GIBSON | HONORS ORACLE

Students stand to be inducted into the Marshall University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

By AMANDA GIBSON

The Marshall University Phi Kappa Phi honor society inducted new members into its chapter Tuesday, April 5 at the Memorial Student Center.

The induction ceremony featured keynote speaker and Marshall President Jerry Gilbert. Gilbert said he has been a proud member of Phi Kappa Phi since 1976, when he was inducted as a junior at Mississippi State University.



AMANDA GIBSON | HONORS ORACLE

Current Phi Kappa Phi student vice-presidents at the induction ceremony. Pictured from left to right are Sam Ransbottom, Ian Lovern, Kelsey Higgins and Kiersten Looney.

"I want to begin by congratulating all of the students on your induction in the society," Gilbert said. "It's a great honor and it proves that you have dedication to your studies, and that's an admirable trait. And all of you have done just that. You've studied hard and you've proven yourself in college."

To be eligible to join Phi Kappa Phi, students must be a junior, senior or graduate student. Juniors must be in the top 7.5 percent of their class within their college, while seniors and graduate students must be in the top 10 percent.

Students are notified of their eligibility to join Phi Kappa Phi via a letter from the national office.

The Phi Kappa Phi initiation takes place each spring for students who have met these requirements and accepted their invitation.

"Phi Kappa Phi has selected you for your excellence," Gilbert said to the inductees. "You are indeed full of leadership potential."

Recent achievements by the Marshall University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi include its recognition as a Chapter of Excellence by the national organization in 2015. Also, in 2016, Chapter President Mary Beth Reynolds was recognized by the national organization in Phi Kappa Phi's April Volunteer Spotlight.

Steering Committee volunteers at Huntington City Mission

By HANNAH HALL

The Honors College Student Association Steering Committee is always looking for a way to give back to the community.

On April 14, the Huntington City Mission welcomed a group of Honors College students who organized a movie night for the kids living there, complete with popcorn and juice boxes. Volunteering at the City Mission was one of the organization's community service projects for the spring semester.

Steering Committee President McKayla Burgess said the members of the committee were drawn to the Huntington City Mission when they learned of the needs of the organization.

"We came for orientation and saw that there was a need in the children's department," Burgess said. "They don't get a lot of programs coming in and doing stuff with them, so that's what we decided to do."

Steering Committee member Brooke Estep said the experience at the mission was as joyful and enriching for her as it

was for the kids they were there to serve.

"I enjoyed helping at the City Mission because it's not only beneficial to those we serve, but to us as well," Estep said. "I think I had just as much fun as the kids on Thursday. It's a really great opportunity that gets you out of your comfort zone and allows you to really feel like you're making a difference."

The Honors College Steering Committee organizes a community service project for students to participate in every semester. Burgess said that the goal of arranging a community service project for the Honors College is bigger than just helping out.

"A lot of it is not only to give back to our community," Burgess said, "but to get the Honors College students involved in Huntington more. While we are here, this town is our home, so we want to get everyone involved."

All students in the Honors College are welcomed and encouraged to participate in all of the committee's community service events in the future.

"Heroes and Villains of Healthcare" seminar hosts Honors Comic Con

By AMANDA GIBSON

An honors seminar held its own version of Comic Con April 18 in the Memorial Student Center.

The students in the honors seminar, "Heroes and Villains of Healthcare", taught by Professor Britani Black, planned the Honors Comic Book Convention in order for the students to present their final projects.

The students in the seminar have spent the semester focusing on representations of health care, such as mental health, cancer and disabilities, in popular culture.

For their final project, the students picked a comic from the banned comics list, created an art project about their comic and presented it at the Honors Comic Book Convention.

They also wore a costume to represent their comic and discussed any health care issues portrayed in the comic and why it was banned.

Caroline Mitchell, communication studies major, said she did her project on the graphic novel "Ice Haven."

"Some of them make it clear as to

why the book is banned. They use profanity, there's nudity, just really unpopular stuff," Mitchell said about some of the quotes from her comic she used in her presentation. "But then there's also some quotes that speak more about our human nature and I think that that is the underlying reason to why this book is banned and why it would cause controversy."

Mitchell said the honors courses she has taken have impacted her ability to look for things, such as the theme of her comic, that are not so obvious.

"I think the fact that I was able to identify this struggle that it's actually talking about, where it's asking to look at yourself. I think it has a deeper meaning that I was taught to look for in the Honors College that I might not be as attuned to recognize if I weren't in the Honors College," Mitchell said.

Black said the final project for the course was a unique type of project, and the students really had to focus in on the details of their comics.

"You don't always necessarily look at a comic and say there's these issues behind this character," Black said. "So this kind



AMANDA GIBSON | HONORS ORACLE
Caroline Mitchell, communications studies major, presents her project on "Ice Haven" at the Honors Comic Con.

Honors Comic Con Continued

of pushes them to look at something a little differently than what they may be used to.”

Applied math major Elizabeth Hance said she liked the seminar because it was different from a lot of other classes.

“I wouldn’t consider myself really into comics,” Hance said, “but I

had the professor last semester for a different class, and she was really into comics, so I was like, ‘Hey, this could be fun.’”

Hance did her final project on “The Diary of a Teenage Girl,” which she said she felt was a rightfully challenged comic.

Black said she loved teaching the

“Heroes and Villains of Healthcare” seminar because there were lots of different perspectives in the same class.

“It offers up a wide variety and it kind of is cool to get different opinions at once,” Black said.

Black said she would like to teach the seminar again in the spring of 2017.

Honors organizations partner to collect socks for St. John’s House

By KASEY MADDEN

About three miles from Marshall’s campus is St. John’s House Learning and Development Center at Marcum Terrace. St. John’s House sponsors an after-school program providing children with learning opportunities and a meal.

This semester, Phi Kappa Phi, the Honors College Student Association and the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association partnered to collect socks for St. John’s House.

Junior Kiersten Looney is a member of Marshall’s Phi Kappa Phi chapter and said she was excited to help with this project.

“It’s something that’s close to us in the community and the Marshall community and it’s something that a lot of people really don’t know about and something that they really need to,” Looney said.

Senior communications disorders major Kelsey Higgins is involved with all three student organizations and is one of four vice presidents for Phi Kappa Phi. Higgins said the Marshall University Athletic Equipment Office reached out to her to donate socks for the drive as well.

The Rev. Lisa Graves is the rector at St. John’s Episcopal Church. Graves said the church supports St. John’s house.

“Our partnership with Marshall is vital and vibrant,” Graves said. “Through the years, big-hearted students have found a place to ‘give back’ and ‘make a difference’ in the lives of

these children who come to St. John’s House every day, year-round for a safe, fun place to learn, play and eat a hot meal.”

Higgins said St. John’s House told them socks were what the children needed this year.

“Our greatest need is volunteers to come spend time with the kids, but we always need funding, socks and arts and crafts and personal care items like deodorant, soap, shampoo as well,” Graves said.

At the most recent count, the sock drive collected 209 pairs of socks for children of Marcum Terrace with more donations outstanding.

Last spring, the groups worked together on a book drive and collected about 300 books for St. John’s house. Looney said the book drive helped St. John’s House receive a literacy grant.

Honors College Student Association President McKayla Burgess said partnering with other organizations helps the service projects HCSA participates in be more successful.

“The Honors College always chooses to do a service event because, for the time we’re here, Huntington becomes our home, and we want to do everything we can to better the area and get the Honors College’s name out into the community,” Burgess said.

The groups also worked together this semester on a Give Back Night at Max and Erma’s in Pullman Square.

Steering Committee caps off year with annual picnic

By KYRA BISCARNER

The Steering Association had its annual Honors College end-of-the-semester picnic April 21 at Ritter Park. The theme of this year’s picnic was “End of the Semesta Fiesta.”

Steering Association Treasurer Ashley DeMoss said she believed this year was very different from past picnics.

“We threw ideas around,” DeMoss said. “We wanted to do something

different and we are lucky enough to have creative minds who came up with the idea of having a fiesta.”

Freshman Biology major Cassidy Duffy said she wanted something fun

Picnic Continued

to do, which led to her attending this year's picnic.

"I really wanted to meet new people from the Honors College," Duffy said. "I was really excited to be here with good friends."

Junior Grace Rogers said she also wanted to meet new people from the Honors College.

"I had never been before," Rogers said. "I wanted to see what it was all about and meet new people."

The picnic had a large arrangement of food including chips and salsa, make-your-own tacos and cookies.

"The food was really great," Duffy said. "I was also really excited to be able to escape dining hall food for a night."

Junior Jessie Townsend said she was glad to have attended this year.

"I had never been to the picnic before," Townsend said. "It was really great to be at the park and to be outside with everyone."

Each year, students from the Honors College are given the chance to be on the Steering Committee, which can lead to very different personalities being in charge. DeMoss said this variation could be reflected in next year's picnic.

"This year is a fresh start," DeMoss said. "Every year is a fresh start and next year's picnic will carry on their own traditions."

DeMoss also said that she was grateful for everyone's hard work on the Steering Association and for their faculty advisor Professor Susan Gilpin's help.

Meet the Honors Oracle Staff

GABI WARWICK, executive editor

Gabi is a senior broadcast journalism major from Martinsburg, W.Va. She joined the Honors College in 2013 and aspires to be a broadcaster at Rooster Teeth.

JARED CASTO, layout editor

Jared is an online journalism major from Ripley, W.Va. He entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to enter the field of journalism after graduation or continue his education.

CLARA MAYNARD, assistant editor

Clara is a public relations major from Chapmanville, W.Va. She joined the Honors College in 2013 and aspires to obtain her masters degree in public relations and doctoral degree to become a professor.

NANCY PEYTON, social media director

Nancy is an online journalism and political science double major from Pecks Mill, W.Va. She entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to work for The New York Times as a reporter.

KYRA BISCARNER, staff writer

Kyra is a freshman broadcast journalism and internal affairs major. She joined the Honors College in 2015 and aspires to be an international correspondent for a major news network.

AMANDA GIBSON, staff writer

Amanda Gibson is a junior print journalism student from Pocahontas County, West Virginia. She has been in the Honors College since 2014 and has been a staff writer for "The Honors Oracle" for two semesters. Amanda hopes to become an editor for a newspaper or magazine after graduating college.

HANNAH HALL, staff writer

Hannah Hall is a freshman elementary education major at Marshall University. She entered the Honors College in 2015 and is involved in the Honors College Steering Committee as well as BCM.

KASEY MADDEN, staff writer

Kasey is a junior public relations major and a marketing minor. She has been in the Honors College since 2013 and has written for the Honors Oracle since 2015. Kasey still isn't sure what she wants to be when she grows up, but is considering going to law school. In her spare time, you can find her interning for University Communications.